

WHY the ALLIES are CHUCKLING



HERR VON
JAGOW
German
Secretary of State.

Continual Quarreling in the Kaiser's Official Family Leads Germany's Foes to Hope That the Empire Is a House Divided Against Itself and That Collapse of Ministry May Bring Early Peace.

He had to go his weary and troubled way alone. It was all the harder for him for he did not want to accept the troublesome old office of foreign minister when it was first offered to him. Gottlieb is Von Jagow's other name. It was only in 1913 that he was called to the German foreign office. At the time of the call he was the German ambassador at Rome.

It was at the personal insistence of Emperor William that he was called to the post. Von Jagow himself did all he could to dodge the call. He didn't want it by any manner of means. It was with openly acknowledged regret that he accepted the summons, a regret that amounted almost to insubordination.

He feared the post because it had been the stumbling block of the careers of more promising German statesmen than you can count on your fingers.

When he was appointed to the post, Von Jagow was almost a freshman in the diplomatic field. He has served a long period of apprenticeship as attaché to German embassies in several European capitals, but he had served at Rome for a mere four years.

In that short length of time, however, he had given every evidence of possessing unusually high abilities. The Italo-Turkish war came during his service in Rome. At this time Austria and Italy were on anything but friendly terms and it was to his efforts in great part that the two countries did not at that time fly at each other's throats.

The position of foreign minister is the most difficult in the German government. This has been true for many years and is largely the result of Germany's growing foreign trade and her imperial policy. The foreign minister has constantly been the butt of criticism and received equal part of blame for everything that went wrong from the Kaiser, the army and navy circles, the capitalists and merchants and the people.

Up to the time of the war, however, he managed his office with considerable success. When the war began there were frequent rumors that the Kaiser would displace him, but as there were so many rumors of a conflicting sort flying broadcast at the time no one paid any attention to them.

During the last year Von Jagow has been one of the leading statesmen of the world. He has probably signed more important international documents than any

of his predecessors in the same office. His name is sure of being preserved eternally by history if only because it appears at the end of many historical documents.

It was not long after smoke began pouring out of the political house of Von Jagow that the French press spread the alarm that the political houses of Von Tirpitz, the German high admiral, and of Dr. von Bethmann-Hollweg, German chancellor, were completely wrapped in flames. It seems, according to the French press, that each of these distinguished gentlemen set fire to the house of the other.

The recent suppression of the Deutsche Tages Zeitung was intimately connected with this row in the Kaiser's family. The suppression was really the result of a quarrel between Von Tirpitz and the chancellor, if the Paris Figaro is to be believed. Says the Figaro:

"The seizure of the Deutsche Tages Zeitung far surpasses the simple suppression of a newspaper. There is a quarrel between Admiral von Tirpitz, chief of the German navy, minister of marine and chief naval counselor of the Kaiser, and Dr. von Bethmann-Hollweg, chancellor of the empire."

The article of Count Reventlow, which brought to the Deutsche Tages Zeitung its seizure and suppression, was written, we have definitely learned, under the direction of Admiral von Tirpitz, originator of the submarine warfare.

"The article contained that the submarine warfare should be carried on in every way following the example set by the sinking of the Lusitania and that no concessions should be made in spite of the consequences which might come. This was the contention of Count Reventlow."

"To this article in the Tages Zeitung the Berliner Lokal Anzeiger replied with a letter which advocated the restriction of submarine activities and conciliation with the United States. The article was signed with the initials E. Z. We have discovered that this E. Z. is no other than Mr. Emil Zimmermann, an under secretary of state in the Imperial office of foreign affairs. In other words the letter was written at the dictation of the chancellor, Dr. von Bethmann-Hollweg."

"The German press is divided almost equally between the two champions, the admiral and the chancellor. The Nord Deutsche Zeitung comes out strongly in favor of the action taken against the Tages Zeitung."

CHANCELLOR VON
BETHMANN HOLLWEG
FROM PHOTO © BY BROWN AND DAWSON, STAMFORD CONN.
FROM UNDERWOOD AND UNDERWOOD, N.Y.

"Who will win out, the 'pirate chief-tain' or the 'man of scraps of paper.' It is for the Kaiser to decide. In the meantime our task is to record the blows in this interesting conflict and to egg on with joy this auspicious quarrel. The rats are commencing to abandon the sinking ship."

With the yelp of joy contained in the last sentence of its article, the Paris Figaro ends its part in the dispute. Whether Von Bethmann-Hollweg and Tirpitz are in a life and death struggle or not it remains as a fact that the chancellor took time to leave his quarrel and his pressing affairs of state to give his handsome daughter in marriage to the man of her choice.

Women and children thronged the sidewalks to watch the wedding procession. Most of the husbands and fathers were away fighting Germany's battles.

Perhaps if it had not been for the war the wedding of Frauella Is. von Bethmann-Hollweg might have been more splendid. In keeping with the seriousness of the affairs of the nation the ceremony was markedly simple.

Much of the vast crowd which turned out to witness the event probably came chiefly to be able to get a good glimpse

of the grizzled German who in the happiness of the moment forgot his worries of state and his quarrel with the admiral and smiled beneficently as his daughter wed the Count von Zech-Burkersroda.

Dressed in his costume of lieutenant general, with his close cropped beard and iron crosses of the first and second class, this powerful figure in German affairs seemed much older than the scholarly frock-coated statesman of former Reichstag debates.

His face and eyes showed the strain of the last year and about his temples his hair has become almost dead white. In sharp contrast to her worried father was the daughter. She was dressed in a beautiful wedding gown of cream lace over net and was a striking figure as she walked beside the military figure of her father.

As the bride and bridegroom walked toward the altar great crowds of little children stirred roses and other flowers in their path. Then they broke into song and some of the sweet old German carols filled the air. The ceremony was almost military in its brevity.

But whether Admiral von Tirpitz was there to represent the naval arm of the government the reports do not say.

THE allies are laughing in their sleeves.

"Let us help the quarrel on all we can," they say between chuckles, "and what we can't do to Germany in a military way she may do to herself in a political way."

For Germany is seething with internal politics like a pot over a fire. Every member of the imperial council is in bad with every other member of the imperial council, if the allied press has received its information straight, and every last member of the council is in bad with the Kaiser.

It's a pretty kettle of fish. The German imperial foreign secretary, Von Jagow, is in very bad with his employer, the Kaiser. Chancellor von Bethmann-Hollweg has been scrapping with Von Jagow. From the sea arm of the government comes news of another scrap.

Admiral von Tirpitz, high and mighty chief of the German navy, is at loggerheads with Chancellor von Bethmann-Hollweg and has sworn that at the first opportunity he will cut out the chancellor's political heart and cast it into the sea. It's a merry, merry war and the allies are chuckling.

From the Kaiser's standpoint Von Jagow has committed two grievous blunders. The first was the Austro-Hun-

dan note to the United States protesting against the export of ammunition to the allies. It seems it was sent to Washington with Von Jagow's O. K. without consulting the Kaiser.

The second serious blunder was revealed when the Belgian "gray book" was published, which showed that Herr von Jagow urged the division of the Belgian Congo between France and Germany.

At the same time the Von Tirpitz and Von Bethmann-Hollweg dispute was getting red in the face. And at the same time Von Bethmann-Hollweg was being kicked around from another direction. In his own party, the National Liberal, insurrection has broken out against him. "He is conducting a weak illusionist policy," is the cry of the disaffected members.

Other members of his party have rushed to the rescue. A meeting of the leaders was held recently in Berlin which expressed unanimous condemnation of the intrigue against the chancellor. It declared that the opposition to the chancellor as expressed recently in certain privately distributed circulars does not represent the opinion of the party as a whole. The meeting declared his policy deserved full confidence.

But there was no one to say kind words for the unfortunate Von Jagow.